

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The Carer's Assessment: Carer's Support Plan

Question 1: Should we change the name of the carer's assessment to the Carer's Support Plan?

Yes

No

Comments: MND Scotland adapted and shortened this consultation questionnaire for carers of people with MND. We received 21 responses. We also directed people to the full Scottish Government consultation.

60% of respondents to our questionnaire agreed that the name should be changed to Carer's Support Plan, that local authorities should offer one to carers, „substantial and regular“ and wording around „ability to care“ should be removed, and a timeframe (as outlined) should be introduced. We also received the following comments:

“I was not offered a carer's assessment until I read about it and requested one.”

“What difference would the change of name really make?”

“My husband has had MND for over 2 years now and just only 2 months ago I was given a form by the social worker for me to fill in, bit late, the form should have

been given to me at the start. Changing the name won't help".

Question 2: Should we remove the substantial and regular test so that all carers will be eligible for the Carer's Support Plan?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 3: Should we remove that part of the existing carer assessment process whereby the cared-for person is a person for whom the local authority must or may provide community care services/children's services?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 4: Should we introduce two routes through to the Carer's Support Plan – at the carer's request and by the local authority making an offer?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 5: Should we remove from statute the wording about the carer's ability to provide care?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 6: Should we introduce a duty for local authorities to inform the carer of the length of time it is likely to take to receive the Carer's Support Plan and if it exceeds this time, to be advised of the reasons?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 7: How significant an issue is portability of assessment for service users and carers?

Comments: We are unable to provide a clear indication on how significant an issue this is.

Question 8: Should the Scottish Government and COSLA with relevant interests work together to take forward improvements to the portability of assessment?

Yes

No

Comments:

Information and Advice

Question 9: Should we introduce a duty for local authorities to establish and maintain a service for providing people with information and advice relating to the Carer's Support Plan and support for carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 10: Should we repeal section 12 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 about the submission of Carer information Strategies to Scottish Ministers, subject to reassurances, which are subject in turn to Spending Review decisions, about the continuation of funding to Health Boards for support to carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments: We do not have a clear „yes“ or „no“ to this question, however, comments from respondents to our survey include:
“If it gives better help to carers then fine. But I don’t know what carers support strategies are.”
“Local control would be better if properly funded by central government.”
“In my experience the NHS staff were helpful, the local authority and their subcontracted private company were obstructive.”

Support to Carers (other than information and advice)

Question 11: Should we introduce a duty to support carers and young carers, linked to an eligibility framework?

Yes

No

Comments: 93% of respondents to our survey thought there should be a duty to support carers and young carers. However, we received the following comments relating to an eligibility framework:
“Depends what the eligibility framework is though.”
“There should be no eligibility to receive help and support as a carer.”

Question 12: Alternatively, should we retain the existing discretionary power to support carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 13: Should we introduce a duty to provide short breaks?

Yes

No

Comments: Almost 93% of respondents to our survey said „yes“ to this question.
Comments from respondents:

“Providing such breaks would benefit both the carer and the local authority by allowing the carer time and space to regroup and re-energise and thus be able to continue the carer’s role more effectively and for longer, potentially being more cost effective for the local authority.”

“Especially when dealing with an illness such as MND when there is no respite or good periods of health, just progressive illness.”

“Maintaining a healthy relationship is vital and everyone needs breathing space when caring for a terminally ill relative.”

“However, unless there is more support and training for care staff in looking after people with complex conditions like MND, it is not possible to take a short break. I was able to take a 2 hour break twice a week (thanks to a charity) but did not go further than the garden because my husband was using breathing equipment.”

“No need for this.”

Stages and Transitions

Question 14: Should we issue statutory guidance on the Carer’s Support Plan which will include guidance for those undertaking the Carer’s Support Plan on managing stages of caring? This would apply to adult carers only. (For young carers, practice guidance will be developed to support management of a Child’s Plan through the stages of caring).

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 15: Should new carers’ legislation provide for young carers to have a Carer’s Support Plan if they seem likely to become an adult carer? Any agreed support recorded in the Carer’s Support Plan would be put in place after the young carer becomes a (young) adult carer.

Yes

No

Comments:

Carer Involvement

Question 16: Should there be carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for the people they care for and support for carers in areas outwith the scope of integration?

Yes

No

Comments: 93% of respondents to our survey said „yes“ to this question.

Comments were:

“Professionals can sometimes become „locked in“ to support provision without recognising the individual circumstances which may exist. Some flexibility in approach would be a good thing.”

“This sounds good, but I just want help. I want the right help to be available to me and everyone else.”

Question 17: Should we make provision for the involvement of carers“ organisations in the planning, shaping and delivery of services and support falling outwith the scope of integration?

Yes

No

Comments: This should include organisations like MND Scotland and not only general carers“ organisations.

Question 18: Should we establish a principle about carer and young carer involvement in care planning for service users (subject to consent) and support for themselves in areas not covered in existing legislation?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 19: What are your views on making provision for young carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared-for people and support for young carers?

Comments: Young carers should be fully involved in these processes, and supported to do so.

Planning and Delivery

Question 20: Should we introduce statutory provision to the effect that a local authority and each relevant Health Board must collaborate and involve relevant organisations and carers in the development of local carers strategies which must be kept under review and updated every three years?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 21: Should we introduce statutory provision to the effect that local authorities with Health Boards must take steps to ensure, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that a sufficient range of services is available for meeting the needs for support to carers and young carers in the area?

Yes

No

Comments:

Identification

Question 22: Should there be no legislative provision for GPs or local authorities to maintain a Carers Register in order to support the identification of carers?

Yes

No

Comments: 87% of respondents to our survey thought there *should* be a legal duty on GPs and local authorities.

We also received the following comments:

“Carers can be unaware of the support that may exist already and without knowing what can be available, their choices can be limited.”

“I think GPs have enough to do, and this doesn’t sound like it would work.”

“Must be controlled and doctors usually know who carers are.”

“Instead of a register why not note who accompanies the patient/client to appointments. This should be done by the social work department. Visibility and communication improves faith in the system when everything else can be failing.”

“What exactly is the purpose of this, I as a wife/carer look after my husband for 24 hours a day, we have a professional carer that comes in to help out but I still have to be there, exactly what support do I get. Oh and I still have to maintain a full time job as I don’t get any support from the government.”

Question 23: Should the Scottish Government ensure that good practice is widely spread amongst Health Boards about the proactive use of Registers of Carers within GP practices?

Yes

No

Comments: Please see above response and comments.

Question 24: Should the Scottish Government ask Health Boards to monitor compliance with the core contractual elements of the GP contract?

Yes

No

Comments: Please see response and comments under Q 22.

Carer and Cared-for Person(s) in Different Local Authority Areas

Question 25: What are the views of respondents on the lead local authority for undertaking the Carer's Support Plan and agreeing support to the carer where the carer lives in a different local authority area to the cared-for person(s)?

Comments: We asked for views on which local authority should provide carers' support and which should cover the cost. We received the following 4 comments:
"The place where the person being cared for lives. This seems obvious to me."
"Local authority where the person being cared for lives."
"The LA where the person receiving the care lives should provide the support."
"The local authority where carer spends most time should support and pay for support."

Question 26: What are the views of respondents on which local authority should cover the costs of support to the carer in these circumstances?

Comments: Please see above.

Question 27: Should the Scottish Government with COSLA produce guidance for local authorities?

Yes

No

Comments: